

CLAIMS

What is claimed is as follows.

1 1. A system for providing streaming media to a plurality of clients over
2 a network, the system comprising:

3 a plurality of streaming media sources coupled to the network;

4 a network server module that couples to the plurality of clients to signal
5 streaming media from at least a first streaming media source in the plurality of
6 streaming media sources to each of the plurality of clients using a first channel;

7 a switching terminal to signal a switch request to the network server module,
8 the switch request requesting streaming media from a second streaming media
9 source in the plurality of streaming media sources; and

10 a proxy module that forwards streaming media from the first streaming
11 media source to the network server module, the proxy module being communicatable
12 with the network server module to be signaled the switch request, and in response to
13 the switch request, the proxy module forwarding streaming media from the second
14 streaming media source to the network server module.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the proxy module forwards the streaming
2 media from the second streaming media source to the network server module
3 while the network server module signals streaming media from the first
4 streaming media source to the plurality of client terminals.

1 3. The system of claim 1, further comprising a memory that stores streaming
2 media forwarded from the proxy module for the network server module, the
3 network server module accessing the memory to receive the streaming media
4 forwarded from the proxy module.

1 4. The system of claim 3, wherein the proxy module forwards the streaming
2 media from the second streaming media source to the network server module

3 while the network server module is accessing the streaming media from the
4 first streaming media source from the memory.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of streaming media sources
2 coupled to the network each include a proxy module to receive streaming
3 media from other streaming media sources.

1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the switching terminal is an administrator for
2 the plurality of client terminals.

1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the switching terminal is one of the plurality
2 of client terminals that receives streaming media from the network server
3 module.

1 8. A computer system for providing streaming media to a plurality of clients
2 over a network, the system comprising:
3 a proxy module that forwards streaming media from a first streaming media
4 source to a network server module that is communicating to the plurality of client
5 terminals, the proxy module being communicable with the network server module to
6 be signaled a switch request, and in response to the switch request, the proxy module
7 forwarding streaming media from a second streaming media source to the network
8 server module while the network server module is signaling streaming media from
9 the first streaming media source to the plurality of client terminals.

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